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## Review

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*The Economic Journal*

*A History of Labour.* By GILBERT STONE. (London: George G. Harrap & Co., 1921. Pp. 416.)

*Trade Unionism and Labor Problems.* Second Series. Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS. (Boston: Ginn & Co., 1921. Pp. xiii + 838.)

MR. STONE, who was sometime Secretary to the Coal Industry Commission and Deputy Head of Production, Coal Mines Department, has set out "to depict in the broadest manner possible the history of the masses, not only in England, but in other countries also, from those days when they were slaves to these days when they are free." We cannot, therefore, look to him for original research but for the fair presentation of historical facts as discovered by other inquirers, and on the whole he has performed this task clearly and with impartiality. Beginning with the stage of unfreedom under Rome, when virtually all commerce and industry was carried on through slaves, we pass through the feudal system to the emancipation of the serf, partly through the development of the towns, partly under the influence of the Church. We next have the differentiation of the free worker into master and paid workman, and the emergence of divergent interests. Gradually the worker won his freedom from economic dependence, by securing the protection of the State for the weak, by wresting the right to combine, by obtaining education, and lastly by conquering political power. "To-day," concludes Mr. Stone, "the masses can do, if they will, what they will," and in his last chapter he considers present tendencies. He does not see much promise of efficiency in any of the forms of nationalisation that are advocated, and relies rather on the spread of education and the readiness of all to work not for themselves but for the public service. In any case he condemns revolutionary methods as a violent interference with political development. He sees "little gain in sharp upheavals," and holds that "the evolutionary forces which can be seen at work moulding the history of the masses slowly acted throughout the ages until at length the people were fitted to rule." Such a view, however, may easily lead to an apathy which would arrest the course of evolution. Not once but many times in our own history the masses were faced with starvation or slavery, and, if rebellions like Tyler's or Kett's ended in defeat, Mr. Stone should remember that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." Slow, very, very slow—too slow—has been the course of reform in every direction, and in condemning "direct

action " to-day one need not adopt Mr. Stone's quietist attitude towards the past or the future. The vigour of reformatory belief is itself one of the evolutionary forces.

*Trade Unionism and Labor Problems* was first issued in 1905 and contained reprints of twenty-eight articles by various authors on different aspects of the labour problem, forming a selection of economic documents intended for use as a text-book, applying to economic teaching the "case system" so long in use in the law schools. Sixteen years later a new edition is now published with forty-five articles, none of which are reprinted from the earlier work. "Western civilisation," says Professor Commons, "is built upon security of investments, and it is the insecurity of labour that menaces it." The book, consequently, opens with six chapters on the various forms of insurance, followed by four on the labour market. "Labour management"—scientific management, piece rates, profit-sharing, etc.—occupies thirteen chapters; another thirteen discuss individual trade unions and trade-union tendencies, and the last nine chapters expound the law in relation to labour. It is unnecessary to commend this work; it will prove as useful as its predecessor as a text-book and as a work of reference.

HENRY W. MACROSTY

*The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South (Johns Hopkins University Studies).* By BROADUS MITCHELL, Ph.D. (Baltimore. 1921. Pp. viii + 281.)

*The Cotton Industry in France.* By R. B. FORRESTER. (Manchester University Press. 1921. Pp. xvi + 142. Price 10s. 6d.)

*The Cotton Control Board.* By HUBERT D. HENDERSON, its Secretary. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. Carnegie Endowment War Series. 1922. Pp. xiv + 76. Price 5s.)

MR. MITCHELL'S book aims at explaining why the South was so predominantly agrarian before the Civil War and how it started on the industrial phase: his "purpose has been to describe the birth of the industry in the South rather than its development" (p. viii). His argument is that in the eighteenth century the South "was well started towards a balanced economic development, with manufactures as well as agriculture" (p. 11)—domestic manufactures, of course, in the first instance: that the growing influence of slavery, together with Whitney's cotton gin, easily